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6 October 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Counterespionage and Technology

1. Advances in technology over the last 25 or so years literally revolutionized the collection capability of our business. To the best of my knowledge we have never asked modern day technology whether it can help us do a better job in ferreting out the spies (if any) in our midst? I recall being asked the question years ago and answering in the negative. If I were asked the same question today, I would answer that I did not know, but that, in my opinion, it is a matter deserving careful exploration by systems experts before a definitive answer is given.

2. I intend to ask the Commission to include this matter in its recommendations to the Director. Specifically, I would suggest to the DCI that he charge the Agency's "systems wizzards" to identify two or three appropriate research organizations who could be asked if technology can help us identify spies in our midst. The response could then be looked at by the Agency from a feasibility point of view and a decision made whether or not to proceed with a specific research contract.

cc: Mr. Bross  
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EA/DDCI

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